



The Halifax Amateur Radio Club

REFLECTOR



2050 Hammonds Plains Road
Hammonds Plains, NS
B4B 1P3

April 2023, Volume 84 Number 4

club web site is www.halifax-arc.org

LOOKS LIKE SPRING IS HERE SOON BE TIME TO WORK ON ANTENNAS

HARC Club Station phone number - 902-490-6421

Executive

President - John Bignell, VE1JMB	223-1945	johnmbignell@gmail.com
First V.P. - Jason Ingraham, VE1PYE	292-9924	VE1PYE@bellaliant.net
2nd V.P. - Ritchie Long, VE1RL	410-7167	VE1RPL@gmail.com
Secretary - Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY		VA1RAY@outlook.com
Treasurer - Alastair Cox, VE1PAB		coxaf@eastlink.ca
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Station Manager: - Don Trotter, VE1DTR		don_trotter@hotmail.com
Past President - Brian Allen, VA1CC	489-4656	basailor@eastlink.ca
Director Emeritus - Bill Elliott, VE1MR	865-8567	bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Committees/Offices/Prime Contacts

Government & Media Relations - Gary Murphy VA1GGM	461-9416	garygmurphy@gmail.com
QSL Bureau Mgr - Roger Stein, VA1RST	403-3738	burch.craft@gmail.com
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Web site content Manager - John Bignell, VE1JMB		johnmbignell@gmail.com

Basic ham course – Vacant

2023 Flea Market Chair – Vacant

2023 Field Day Coordinator - Clayton Moore, VE1MJF	clayton.moore902@gmail.com
Safety Officer - Malcolm MacDonald, VA1MMD	malcolmmd1@gmail.com
VA1MMA Project Manager - Dick Grantham, VE1AI	rgrantham@ns.sympatico.ca
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Non Club Contacts

RAC Atlantic Director - Al Penny, VO1NO	dir.atlantic@rac.ca
RAC Section Manager – Dave Hull, VE1HUL	d.hull@ns.sympatico.ca
RAC Assistant Director for HRM - John Bignel, VE1JMB	johnmbignell@gmail.com

Take-15 Net Controllers

This will be the rotation. We need more net controllers. If you want to join, let Bill Elliott, VE1MR, know.



- April 16 Robert VE1RSG
- April 23 Jeremy VE1LAI
- April 30 Ken VE1PDL
- May 7 Cam VE1BIT
- May 14 Earl VE1EPJ

ATTENTION

We are in need of net controllers. The more volunteers to do this simple task allows controllers to be doing the net less often. The net is excellent practice for running an emergency net and usually takes about 20 or 30 minutes. Contact Bill, VE1MR to join the list.

All phone numbers must be preceded by area code 902 when dialling, unless otherwise indicated

The **April 2023 General Meeting** of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club will take place Wednesday April 19 at 1900 . The method (**hybrid – in person at the club and virtual**) the details will be sent in an e-mail. Check your e-mail for details as the date approaches. Also check the web site for any other updates.

Hurricane Fiona

Lyle Donovan, Victoria County emergency management coordinator, will be speaking. [See page 2.](#)

Guests are welcome in person or need to send an e-mail to the club to be on the ZOOM invitee list.

HELP WANTED

The Flea Market is confirmed for May 27 at the Lower Sackville Legion as in previous years. We need a chairman to organize this event. If you are interested please contact any executive member.

Deadline for submissions to the May Reflector is Saturday May 6, 2023.

GENERAL INFORMATION



Sunday evenings:
TAKE-15 NET at 8:30 PM

CLUB REPEATERS:

VE1PSR - 147.270 MHz + TX=82.5
VE1PSR/UHF - 444.350 MHz +
VE1PSR/6M - 53.550 MHz -
access and TX tone 151.4 Hz

VE1HNS - 146.940 MHz - TX=82.5

PACKET: VE1NSD 145.050 MHz
LAN NODE

Events for Your Calendar

March or April – HARC Ham breakfast. Date TBD.

April 22 – Parks on the Air activation at the 1936 Moose River Mine Disaster site

May 6 – SMART 23, see below

May 27 – HARC Flea Market

June 3-4 – Museum Ships on the air

June 4 – Ledwidge LookOff Rally

June 24-25 – The ARRL Field Day

July 19 – Pizza night at Station 50

July 29-30 – IOTA contest

August 16 – Pizza night at Stn. 50

August 19-20 – International Lighthouse Lightship Weekend

Sept. 23-24 – Trout Lake Rally

October 20-23 – Jamboree on the Air with Scouts Canada

Greetings all amateurs,

The WestCumb ARC is pleased to announce that SMART 23 is a go for 2023.

It will be held on May 6th, 2023 at Dr Carson & Marion Murray Community Centre in Springhill NS.

The registration form is now on the website and you will notice we have added a few questions to answer as you fill out the form. These questions will help us set up the events for the day. Remember to click on SEND FORM at the bottom.

We will fill in the classes when we finalize. Keep checking back.

Hope to see many of you this year at SMART.

Here is the link to the website.
<https://www.westcumb.ca/smart23>

Jim Langille VE1JBL

Check into the Maritime Noon Net, week days at 12 noon on the Windsor repeater,
 VE1HCA 146.910 – MHz

Hurricane Fiona – Lyle Donovan, Victoria County emergency management coordinator, will be speaking about the failure of the trunked mobile radio system (TMR2) during Hurricane Fiona in Nova Scotia, and the importance of backup systems like UHF/VHF radio networks. Amateur radio enthusiasts and emergency responders alike will benefit from Donovan's insights on the impact of communication blackouts on emergency response efforts, and the need for resilient communication networks in disaster scenarios.

TechTalks

We are starting to think about presentations for the fall meetings. If you have ideas or topics, please send them along to the events@halifax-arc.org email address. If you have an interesting topic that you like to present, we'd love to hear from you.

Ledwidge LookOff Performance Rally

The Bluenose Autosport Club is looking for at least 6 radio operators to assist with the Ledwidge LookOff Performance Rally, scheduled for Sunday, June 4th. Positions include: HQ, Car 99, EMT, Start, Finish and one mid-stage location. We will happily find a useful position for additional operators, if more than 6 would like to attend. We would ask for your attendance from 09:00 to 17:00 on Sunday, June 4th. Lunch will be provided and there will be a BBQ offering for supper.

The rally will be Headquartered at Tennycape, on Ledwidge property off Highway 215, in a trailer set up near the old airport hangar (45 15 52 N, 63 52 29 W). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at: blcoleman42@yahoo.ca

Thank you, Barb Coleman, BAC Performance Rally Administrative Coordinator.

APSTAR

The Atlantic Provinces Support Team for Amateur Radio, its purpose is to assist newly-qualified Amateur Radio operators by providing a forum and website where their questions can be answered by more experienced hams. Dave, VE1HUL agreed to look after creating the web site while George, VY2GF created the APSTAR group. The group is where dialogue between licensed amateurs or aspiring amateurs takes place. Ideally registered members of the group would consist of those asking questions and those willing to provide answers. It's hoped knowledgeable individuals will come forward and serve as mentors.

APSTAR is not associated with any club or organization and has come together solely to provide an avenue between those enjoying the hobby and the newly licenced. There are no dues, no members and APSTAR participation is limited to amateurs and aspiring amateurs resident in the Atlantic provinces.

Online interactions will be through an email group on Groups.io that you can join where you'll receive notices of upcoming sessions and other group discussions. It's a place to post your questions to the group as well.

APSTAR is definitely a work in progress so comments and suggestions are most welcome.

Links: APSTAR – <https://www.ve1hul.ca/apstar/>
 Groups.Io – <https://groups.io/g/apstar>

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE for April 2023

As the President of the Halifax Amateur Radio Club, I am thrilled to see the enthusiasm and commitment of our members this spring. There is a palpable energy in the air as everyone is sharing their ideas and suggestions for how we can make a more significant impact in the world of amateur radio here in Halifax.

Members are the lifeblood of any organization, and the HARC is no exception. Your willingness to give your time and expertise keeps our club running and growing. As a leader, I am constantly inspired by the dedication and passion of our membership. "Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart." And some of our HARC members have the biggest hearts.

The warming weather has renewed our group's sense of purpose and excitement. HARC members are stepping up to take on new projects and initiatives, and their enthusiasm is infectious. Whether organizing a special event, teaching how to solder with new operators, or improving the wireless infrastructure that supports our community, our volunteering members are eager to make a difference.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to all of HARC. Your commitment and dedication to our cause made our club unique and stood the test of time. Together, we can continue to grow and thrive for many more years. I am honoured to be a part of such a dedicated and talented group of individuals that care as much as I do about Ham Radio and its essential role in our community.

Respectfully submitted: John Bignell, VE1JMB – PRESIDENT- HARC



There was a QSL Buro card sorting party at the club a few weeks ago. Roger, VA1RST had several helpers. The helpers were Brian, VA1CC, Michael, VE1MAG and out of picture would be Ken, VE1PDL and Ritchie, VE1RL.

Photo by Ritchie, VE1RL.

FIELD DAY 2023

Here are some of the changes in the Field Day rules for 2023

4.1.1.5. NEW FOR 2023:

There is no limit to the number of contacts made by the GOTA station. All GOTA station contacts are worth five (5) points, regardless of mode. In addition, bonus points may be earned by this station under rule 7.3.13.

6.4. NEW FOR 2023:

Each contact must include contemporaneous direct initiation by both operators making a contact. Initiation of a contact may be by either local or remote control. Fully automated contacts are prohibited.

NEW FOR 2023:

Power output for classes A, B and C cannot exceed 500 watts Peak Envelope Power (PEP) transmitter output. Power output for classes D, E and F cannot exceed 100 watts Peak Envelope Power (PEP) transmitter output.

**Halifax Amateur Radio Club
General Meeting Minutes
15 March 2023**

1. Welcome to the HARC monthly meeting for Mach 15, 2023: The meeting via Zoom, was called to order by President John, VE1JMB at 1900 with 25 attendees.

2. Acceptance of the Agenda:

A request was made to accept the March agenda.

Motion by: Ritchie, VE1RL

Second by: Scott, VE1QD

Majority voted in favour

3. Approval of the Minutes:

A request was made to accept the Minutes for the February 15, 2023 General Meeting minutes (as printed in Reflector).

Motion by: Don VE1DTR

Second by: Fraser VE1WO

Majority voted in favour

4. Report of any Silent Keys:

The following amateurs in the Maritimes have passed since the last club meeting of February 15, 2023

Norma Poirier, VE9NSP

March 3rd – Glenlevit NB

5. Correspondence: Nothing to report.

6. President's Report:

John, VE1JMB – Not a whole lot to report since last meeting. A lot of work being done by committees. Appreciate people stepping up and taking initiative to get projects done.

7. Treasurer's Report:

Alastair, VE1PAB – He gave a detailed report of the monthly income and expenses as well as reporting the opening balance and closing balance. Have stopped getting any email notifications from the bank for e-transfers for renewals.

Motion to accept the Treasurer's report

Motion by: Bill, VE1MR

Second by: Scott, VE1QD

8. Station Managers Report:

Don, VE1DTR – We have completed our long delayed RigPi process and

everything is working as we think it should. We're ready to start accepting enrolment for people to start accessing the remote station from home. I will have Tim send out an announcement that gives direction on how to sign up. Fraser added that he was on for about 4 hours and made about 24 contacts, said that it was working well and had good feedback from people.

9. Education Report:

Jason, VE1PYE – No inquiries since last meeting. Had an email from an amateur in Toronto who is from the Ukraine. Since we had the last storm, our 2 meter at VE1PSR has been off the air. Anytime the power goes off and the generator kicks in it causes the repeater to lock up. There are a few solutions to this, one is to install a UPS or swap out the repeater to a different one.

10. QSL Bureau Report:

Roger, VA1RST – On Saturday, we had a QSL Bureau card sort with the help of Ritchie, Brian, Fraser, myself and Michael. We spent a couple of hours sorting a box of cards we received from Ottawa. Mail outs will begin shortly. Ritchie got a photo of all the smiling faces sorting and counting the cards.

11. HATS/SAR report:

HATS:

Gary, VA1GGM – I was away the last 6 weeks. I am going to start twice a Month for message handling. Wondering if there was a way to have a poll to find out what night works best for people to do this

SAR – Report:

David, VE1AJP – A couple of things, one of our searches recently in the Kinsac area. I was not there but received a phone call that the radio system was not working. While trying to troubleshoot over the phone, it was discovered that the power cord for the repeater was not plugged in. Then recently during one of the really cold nights an autistic gal from the

Parkland area went missing. She was found at the Halifax Commons walking down the sidewalk by police. She was dressed for the cold and was quite happy where she was. Some of the crew have also been busy out doing wellness checks at the local shelters.

CW Club:

John, VE1JMB & Gord, VE1GVY

Gord was not available as he was out of country but he wants to start a CW club to bring people together to practice and learn CW on the alternative Wednesday nights when we are not meeting at the club. His goal is to get more people trained and comfortable to have more volunteers available for the MMA this summer. Gord later joined and a quick poll was taken to see what kind of interest there was for two different options for the CW club.

90th Celebration:

Ritchie, VE1RL – There's a bit of news, we continue to work on planning, still reaching out to presenters, we have at least 10 people who have stepped up and offered to do presentations. Still coordinating with RAC as they want to have a couple of their people do presentations as well. We have to figure out how we fit all this together. Just finalizing arrangements on the venue for the gala dinner. Looking at a room to handle up to 120 people at the Comfort Inn in Bayers Lake. Thanks to John's help, we can now buy our tickets through Eventbrite. You can access through the HARC website. One question brought up was how people could use cash or cheque to buy their tickets. We are trying to set up a day or night at the station where people would be able to stop and pay by cash or cheque and then we could print off their tickets for them. Other than that, going forward we are focusing on finding sponsors

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and donations for covering some of the costs. As well, touching base with RAC to finalize the event program.

Old Business:

John, VE1JMB – Bay Treasure Chest application has been sent in and waiting for dates.

New Business:

Life Membership for Dick Grantham, VE1AI

From Tim, VA1TIM, I would like to make a motion to induct Dick Grantham as a life member of HARC. He has been very active in amateur radio for most of his life beginning at the age of 15 with both the HARC and Dartmouth clubs. He is responsible for the planning and running of the MMA program and the acquisition of VA1MMA call sign. Dick is one of the true elders of amateur radio and is an individual most deserving of a life membership.

Motion made by: Tim, VA1TIM

Second by: Gord, VE1GVY

Vote was unanimous in favour

OWL conference system

Don, VE1DTR – Last meeting, David George provided one from Dalhousie for our hybrid meeting. Motion being made for the club to purchase one for use as it seems like we will continue to use hybrid meetings from here on. It will also be very useful for streaming content during the 90th celebration event.

Motion by: Tim, VA1TIM

Second by: Jason, VE1PYE

POTA Activation for the Moose River Mine disaster anniversary

Coming up in April. Having a meeting with museum staff. They are struggling with the date we gave them for April 22nd as there may be a conflict. We are now looking at a date of April 16th, the weekend before.

Roundtable:

Jason, VE1PYE – Repeater work in progress in Cape Breton, some equipment has been sent up by NSARA. Originally there was a programming issue but that has now been corrected. Some work remains to be done at another site.

Meeting adjourned at 2002

Motion to adjourn by Don VE1DTR

*Respectfully submitted by
Ray Armstrong, VA1RAY, HARC Secretary*

I don't think the therapist is supposed to say "wow," that many times in your first session but here we are...

Halifax Amateur Radio Club General Meeting Agenda – April 19, 2023

Welcome: John Bignell, VE1JMB

Acceptance of the April 2023 General Meeting Agenda:

Motion by:

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Acceptance of the March 2023 General Meeting Minutes:

Motion by:

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Silent Keys:

Ronald P. Smith, VE9GU – April 6th, Rosehill NB

James J. Howe, VE1JJH – March 31st – Sheet Harbour NS

Albert R. Marshall, VE1NV – March 26th, Sydney NS

Victor Lanteigne, VE9VL – March 20th, Rogersville NB

Robert (Bob) Lawrence, VE1RLL

March 16th, Lower Sackville NS

President report: John Bignell VE1JMB

Treasurer report: - Alastair Cox, VE1PAB

Motion to accept by: Alastair Cox, VE1PAB

Second by:

Carried: yea nay

Committee Reports

Station Manager report: - Don, VE1DTR

Education report: - Jason, VE1PYE

QSL BURO REPORT: - Roger, VA1RST

SAR/EMO report: - David George, VE1AJP

HATS report: - Gary Murphy, VA1GGM

CW Sessions/VE1MMA Coordinator – Gordon Young

90th Celebration/Gala – Ritchie Long VE1RPL

Old Business

1. – Field Day June 24 -25

2. – Purchase Update - Owl Lab Conferencing hardware

New Business:

1. – Saturday Morning GOTA – Team Lead

2. – Flea Market – Committee/volunteers to help organize the Down East Flea Market

ROUND TABLE:

Adjournment @

Entertainment: presented by Richie, VE1RL

Respectfully submitted:

John Bignell, VE1JMB President- HARC

How many of us have looked around our family reunion and thought "Well aren't we just two clowns short of a circus?"

New HARC Remote Radio Access Service

HARC is pleased to announce that the RigPi Remote Station Server is now up and running and ready for enrolment of subscribers. Note that you must have an active membership in HARC and hold an Advanced Qualification from Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) in order to be granted access.

To enroll, please email remotetestation@halifax-arc.org and include your call sign, qualifications and a landline or mobile phone number. Client software is required and a password for the HARC Virtual Private Network (VPN) access will be assigned.

An account will be created and you will be notified via email which will include the documentation regarding the installation of the software components. The following will need to be installed or available and the user installation guide outlines the process for each component:

- A supported browser needs to be available or installed – Edge, Chrome, Safari or Firefox
- OpenVPN – this VPN software will provide the ability to tunnel Internet traffic between your PC and the Remote Station Server.
- Mumble – Voice over IP software to transport the audio to and from the radio

Scheduling – Initially, we will not require a user to formally schedule a time slot to use the remote radio system. Please be aware that audio may be heard from someone else using the system when you connect to the Mumble server from your PC. Please be polite and continue to listen if you wish. Please be aware that both users can hear both sides of the conversation. The Mumble console provides a view of all users connected to the system.

For more information, go to the following links.

Review in QST from April 2020 by Pascal Villeneuve, VA2PV

https://www.google.com/url?sa=t&rct=j&q=&esrc=s&source=web&cd=&cad=rja&uact=8&ved=2ahUKEwj4hZOZ1s_1AhVkkokEHfoKAIEQFnoECAQQAQ&url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.va2pv.com%2Fwp-content%2Fuploads%2F2020%2F10%2FQST-April-2020-MFJ-1234-RigiPi-Station-Server.pdf&usg=AOvVaw12BBTDNJiZxWRO_E0xFND

YouTube video review:

RigPi MFJ-1234 Reviewed! Operation and Configuration - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GWrLIMP9CsA>

Do you have pictures, interesting or funny radio-related story, article or news you would like to share via the HARC Reflector? Please send it/them to Lynn at:

bowser.elliott@ns.sympatico.ca

Please show “For Reflector” on the “Subject” line so I don’t miss it.

Thanks! -ed

My tolerance for idiots is extremely low today. I used to have some immunity built up, but obviously there is a new strain out there.

Turns out that being an adult is mostly just googling how to do stuff.

90th Anniversary On-Air Fun

With the 90th Anniversary Celebration taking place in August, we should look to have some On-Air fun. After all, we are hams! We are planning two FUN activities for July and August. You will want to take part, if only for bragging rights.

The Club has obtained two special callsigns (VC1933 and VC1HARC90) for use by members in July and August. We plan to run a contest during this time period where Club members can checkout and use the special callsigns to make QSOs to gain points. Points will only be obtained if you use one of the two special callsigns. The rules are being worked out and will be posted on the website. We are working hard to set the rules so that everyone can participate on any or all modes, including through repeaters. Scores will be kept and posted on the website.

The second activity will be a QSO Party during the Natal Day weekend (from 0001Z, 05 August 2023 to 2359Z, 6th August 2023). This will be single operator, one callsign, any mode, excluding WARC bands and logs to be submitted. Bruce Wade VE1NB has done a great job developing the rules and scoring. This will be posted to the website shortly.

A number of categories will be setup for prizes and certificates. Maybe even a prize for QSOs made with the oldest radio equipment.

Keep checking the website for new information of activities centered around the 90th Anniversary Celebrations.

In Golf



It always takes at least five holes to notice that a club is missing...

HARC 90th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Join us for the Halifax Amateur Radio Club's (HARC) 90th Anniversary Celebration and Conference.

This will be a three-day event in the hobby of amateur radio. Attendees can expect expert presentations, hands-on workshops, and networking opportunities. Join us as HARC marks 90 years of ham radio and its contributions to the hobby.

The conference will take place in Halifax starting the evening of Friday August 18 through Sunday August 20, 2023.

Conference Access with Passes

Speaker Series Area (PASS): This is the main area of the conference where the speakers will present their talks and presentations. The main hall will be set up with a stage and audiovisual equipment for the speakers.

Gala Dinner (PASS): The HARC 90th Gala dinner is a semi-formal event that takes place in the evening and will be a highlight of the conference. It will include a reception with cocktails and hors d'oeuvres, followed by a sit-down dinner with multiple courses. The dinner will also feature keynote speakers and award ceremonies to recognize outstanding contributions to the ham radio community.

Halifax Waterfront/Museum of the Atlantic (PASS): This is an optional Sunday morning activity that attendees can participate in during the conference. The tour will start with a guided walk along the scenic Halifax waterfront with stops at historical landmarks and points of interest. The tour will then continue with a visit to the Museum of the Atlantic where attendees can explore the radio room and exhibits related to the history of maritime communication and radio technology. The museum also features two ships, the HMCS Sackville and the CSS Acadia, which attendees can tour and learn about their maritime history.

Open to the Public

Tradeshow Area/Coffee Breaks (FREE): This is the area where vendors and exhibitors will set up booths to showcase their products or services. Attendees can visit each booth to learn about the latest technology, products, or services in the ham radio industry.

Event Station Ham Radio Room (FREE): This is a special area of the conference where attendees can participate in hands-on ham radio activities. The ham radio room will have several stations set up with different types of equipment and antennas for attendees to experiment with. Trained volunteers may be available to provide guidance and assistance. In addition to the event station, there will be static displays of vintage equipment setup throughout the conference area.

Sunday Service at the Salvation Army Church (FREE): This is a unique religious service held on the conference's final day, which is open to all attendees who wish to participate. The service will be held at the Salvation Army church. It may include music, prayer, and sermons related to the theme of emergency communications and the role of volunteers and professionals in this field.

Touch a Truck>Show & Shine (FREE): This is an outdoor event where attendees can explore various communication vehicles and equipment. Trucks, trailers, and other vehicles may be set up with ham radio equipment for attendees to touch and feel. This event may also include demonstrations of emergency communication techniques or other ham radio applications.

For updates on the conference visit the HARC website:

www.halifax-arc.org

To purchase passes for the event visit Eventbrite:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/harc-90th-anniversary-celebration-conference-tickets-546613263987>

Hamvention 2023 Getting Ready



Dayton Hamvention® 2023, scheduled for May 19 - 21, is just weeks away and

preparations are moving forward for the big event.

Tickets are now available online and by mail order. They can be purchased at <https://hamvention.org/purchase-tickets>.

Hamvention, which is amateur radio's largest annual convention, is held at the Greene County Fairgrounds and Expo Center in Xenia, Ohio.

ARRL is readying its large participation at Hamvention. ARRL's exhibit area will be located in Building 2 and will

include program representatives and volunteers supporting over a dozen booths and activities.

With nearly 700 volunteers, this year's Hamvention will boast more than 500 indoor exhibits and more than 2,500 outdoor exhibits. The event showcases the latest in amateur radio equipment, technology, and computer software and hardware, along with hard-to-find radio and computer accessories and equipment. For the latest information about Hamvention 2023, visit their website.